THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, September 15, 1806.

Ceremony of opening the East-India Docks.

To the PRINTER,

SIR, *August 6.*

THE arrival of the East India fleet, a month at least earlier than was expected, made an uncommon exertion requisite at the docks, to be able to receive them; and the progress made in the short time between their arrival and reception into the docks was scarcely credible. It was such, notwithstanding the very unfavourable state of the weather during the last week, that the lords commissioners of the treasury, on the representation of the board of customs, were pleased to grant the certificate prescribed by the act, of the fitness of the docks for the reception of shipping; and in consequence, Monday last, August 4, was determined on for the admission of the company's ships into the inner-dock; and the requisite arrangements were made for that purpose. It was by the directors of the East-India dock company also resolved, that the honourable company's ship Earl Camden, from the gallant defence made by her under Sir Nathaniel Dance, against the Marengo, Admiral Linois, and the ship Admiral Gardner, Captain Saltwell, in consequence of her beating off the Bellona, of 44 guns, during the voyage, should be the first ships admitted into dock; and that the city of London, Captain Landon, from the name having reference to the emporium of British commerce, and the seat of his majesty's government, should be introduced at the same time.

The usual proceeding of mooring at Long Reach for a short time, in order to clear their ships of their stores and a part of

their cargoes, stowed on the lower deck for the purpose of lightening them to a certain degree, was necessarily complied with, and it so happened, that only one of these ships, the Admiral Gardner, came up among the early ships from Long Reach to Blackwall: the Lady Castlereagh, the Charlton, the city of London, and the Surry, came up in succession; in time, however, to prepare and fit them to go into the docks. An unfortunate strong westerly wind prevented the arrival of the Camden before the morning of the 4th, too late for admission 'till the evening tide of that day; and the arrangement was of course altered for the Admiral Gardner to take the lead in entering the dock, then the City of London, and the other three ships. They were accordingly introduced into the bason on Friday, Saturday, and Monday, as they were ready. The Charlton did not avail herself of those opportunities, and was in consequence left in the river. It was as unexpected as it was acceptable, that the weather proved uncommonly fine, with sufficient wind only to display the flags; and offered to the company assembled a very grand and picturesque scene.

Over the great entrance gate-way, seats were placed most commodiously for about 250 persons; the view from thence commanding the whole of the dock premises, the surrounding country, the reaches of the river down to Purfleet, the dock-yard at Woolwich, and the royal arsenal; the prospect of Greenwich Hospital, Flamstead House, the hoys, and other vessels dressed in the river, among which was the Earl Camden that had arrived at her moorings, and was splendidly decorated with flags, formed altogether one of the most gratifying and interesting sights imaginable. These seats were filled by persons of superior rank in life, among which were the families of many of the nobility. On the western quay were three sheds erected, which had seats for 200 persons each. The seats in both situations were covered with flags, and the pillars ornamented with them, so as to afford a very rich emblematical appearance. Over the gateway was displayed the royal standard, a St. George's ensign, and the East India company's ensign.

The Trinity yatcht, a beautiful vessel, was dressed in a masterly style, with the flag of that ancient and honourable corporation at her mast-head, and all the British colours in the more conspicuous stations, with those of our allies next, so as to form a very appropriate contrast. The Admiral Gardner had only three flags at her mast head, independent of her jack and ensign; the royal standard at the main, St. George's ensign at the fore, the company's colours at the mizen. The admiralty flag, that had been displayed at the mast-house, on the entrance of his majesty's ministers into the premises (among whom were Lord Howick, and Earl Spencer, who formerly presided at that board),

board), was, on their arrival on board the Gardner, displayed at her foremast-head. The City of London had a profuse display of colours. The Castlereagh and Surry, such as the shortness of time admitted. The Trinity buoy yacht, and Sir William Curtis's, were at the pier heads in the river, dressed in every colour and flag that is used as national or signal colours; and the East-India company's armed boys, with their respective flags, lay on the south shore, with their ordnance on board, and barricadoed. Such a splendid scene presented itself on all sides, as was never surpassed. But, added to all this, there was such an assemblage of British dames in all the pride of beauty, grace, diguity, and dress, as was scarcely ever before collected together. Spectators in carriages open and covered, and on foot, covered the quays; which, with the East-India company's volunteers on the south quay, their artillery in front, and the Trinity House royal volunteer artillery, who manned 50 pieces of cannon on the south quay of the outward-bound dock, constituted one of the grandest spectacles imaginable, and scarcely possible to be conveyed by the minutest description. At the back of the sheds were ranged the caravans, by which the ships' cargoes are to be conveyed to the company's warehouses along the spacious commercial roads; these carriages formed a very good back ground to the delightful display of so much beauty and elegance as adorned the seats. The ceremony opened by a grand discharge of cannon at ten o'clock, when, by signal, all the yachts and ships were dressed. At twelve o'clock the East-India company's military entered the west gate in a very grand style, and preceded by the advanced guard, which formed with presented arms to receive the artillery and the rest of the brigade, accompanied by their band playing the grand march, under the command of Colonel Thellusson, who took their stations in two lines, the band repairing on board the Admiral Gardner.

It was late in the day when Mr. Montague announced the approach of the lord mayor in his state barge, with the aldermen, and port committee. Arrangements were instantly made for his lordship's and their accommodation, but not without difficulty, as this honour had not been expected, and those in possession of the front seats in the southern shed were not disposed to give place. The tide making strong flood, the admiralty barge, with Lord Howick, and the lords commissioners of the admiralty, Lord Grenville, and several of his majesty's ministers, as well as the lord mayor's, were impeded in their progress; and, time wearing away fast, upon the arrival of Lord Grenville and Lord Howick, the procession began to move from Mr. Wells's through the ship-yard, in front of the several ships building for government and the East-India company, exhibiting colours and flags of various descriptions. Upon

the entry of the noble lords within the dock premises, the admiralty flag, in compliment to Lord Howick and the admiralty board, was thrown out from the mast-house flag-staff, and a royal salute fired by the Trinity House royal volunteer artillery, which formed a corps of the most respectable description, with their officers, who saluted the company *en passant* with their swords, &c.

About two o'clock the lord mayor landed, and his majesty's ministers went on board the Admiral Gardner. The admiralty flag was then hoisted at the fore, in lieu of the St. George's ensign; and, upon the signal from the mast-house being displayed, the gates of the inner dock were opened, followed by a salute. The band then struck up, and continued during the entrance of the ship to play the most loyal and popular airs: the Trinity yacht proceeded, and came to her station at the middle buoy of the dock, whilst the Admiral Gardner, the City of London, the Castlereagh, and Surry, in succession, entered the dock in the most regular and magnificent style possible.

Whether the number of the ships, or their size (being upwards of 800 tons each), or their valuable cargoes, or the extensiveness of the undertaking, or the presence of those dignified personages who constitute his majesty's government, and the attendance of many other elevated characters, with upwards of 10,000 spectators of the better class, be considered, it was most certainly a gratifying and superb exhibition of dignity, wealth, and importance, becoming the high commercial consequence of the East-India company, upon whose extensive trade the whole is founded.

In the interval immediately following the entrance of the fourth ship, the East-India company's military began their *feu de joie*, by a discharge from their artillery of 21 guns; and the musketry opened and kept up their fire in the most correct and animated style, from the right to the left of the line. This discharge of artillery and musketry was repeated twice; but, the ships being at two great a distance the cheering could not be effected as was proposed. The Camden was during this period under a press-stay sail, and part of her jib coming from the upper moorings to the entrance of the outer-lock, she passed through it into the bason at four o'clock, in a manner highly creditable; and without the least difficulty or interruption was secured in the bason. This circumstance was a most splendid finish to the introduction of the ships into the dock; which then secured, an additional salute by the Trinity House royal volunteer artillery, and the armed boys, was given.

The eagerness to get on board the ships was very great; cold collations were spread, and every accommodation given by the dock company and individuals, which the nature of the event

event would admit. Countess Spencer, Lady Grenville, with other ladies, and the members of government, then accompanied Earl Spencer, master of the Trinity House, on board the Trinity yacht, where they partook of refreshments; and, after receiving the compliments of the families of the chairman and deputy chairman, Colonel Thellusson, and several others, the yacht, with her colours all abroad, was removed from the inner dock to the bason; where the company landed amidst a vast concourse of spectators. Upon passing the Earl Camden, which greatly attracted their notice, from her having been the commodore's ship in the action with Linois, as well as from her beauty (being newly painted), and her magnitude, three cheers were given by the crew, which being returned, the noble company were conducted by the chairman and deputy towards Mr. Wells's; and, on leaving the dock premises, a finale of 21 guns, as an adieu, terminated the ceremony.

It is with extreme pleasure I can state, that, notwithstanding the immense number of persons, carriages, horses, and others, assembled to view this glorious sight, and the exertions requisite in transporting such ships, not the least accident happened; and all the precautions taken were of course happily needless.

This, Sir, is the true representation of the spectacle, which for magnificence exceeded any display of the kind before; nor is there a probability that any equal to it will be seen hereafter: it had more the appearance of a national rejoicing conducted by government, than the endeavours of a commercial body to celebrate the commencement of their public utility.

The arrangements must have been carefully attended to, and as regularly conducted, reflecting high credit on those officers of the establishment who carried them into effect, and were extremely satisfactory to all descriptions of persons present.

The invitations on the occasion were, to his majesty's cabinet ministers; principal ministers of the public departments; Lord Walsingham; the peers who had been presidents of the India board; lord warden of the Cinque Ports; chief justices and chief baron; speaker of the house of commons; under secretaries of state; boards of treasury; admiralty; commissioners for India affairs: the respective secretaries; dean of Windsor; chairman, deputy, and directors, of the East-India company; comptroller and deputy of the navy board; governor and deputy of the bank; elder brethren of the Trinity House; chairmen to the boards of customs and excise; chairman and deputy of the West-India dock company; ditto of London dock company; managing owners of company's ships; proprietors; secretaries and principal officers of the East-India company; captains of the ships introduced; counsel and solicitor

solicitor to the dock company; engineers and officers on the establishment; principal officers of customs attached to the docks; and a very few private friends of the directors; the greater part of whom (about 140 persons) assembled at six o'clock at the London Tavern, where an elegant dinner was prepared; and many who could not attend the ceremony at Blackwall, joined those who did. The band of music belonging to the East-India brigade played during dinner, and in the intervals of singing; and, after a number of loyal and appropriate toasts and songs from Mr. Dignum and others, the day finished with the *eclat* it had begun; every body appeared highly gratified with their entertainment, and retired at about eleven o'clock.

Your's, &c.

A. B.

OTWAY's ORPHAN.

THE plot of this celebrated tragedy, though generally supposed to be invented by the author, is taken from a fact related in a very scarce pamphlet, of which only two copies are now to be found, entitled "English Adventures," published in 1667. The following are the particulars:—

The father of Charles Brandon, afterwards duke of Suffolk, retired, on the death of his lady, to the borders of Hampshire. His family consisted of two sons, and a young lady, the daughter of a friend lately deceased, whom he adopted as his own child. This lady being singularly beautiful, as well as amiable in her manners, attracted the affections of both the brothers; the elder, however, was the favourite, and he privately married her, which the younger not knowing, and overhearing an appointment of the lovers to meet the next night in her bed-chamber, he contrived to get his brother otherways employed, and made the signal of admission himself (thinking it a mere intrigue); unfortunately he succeeded.

On a discovery, the lady lost her reason, and soon after died. The two brothers fought, and the elder fell. The father broke his heart in a few months afterwards. The younger brother, Charles Brandon, the unintentional author of all his family misery, quitted England in despair, with a fixed determination of never returning.

Being abroad for several years, his nearest relations supposed him dead, and began to take the necessary steps for obtaining his estates, when, roused by this intelligence, he returned privately to England, and, for a time, took obscure lodgings in the vicinity of his family mansion.

While he was in this retreat, the young king (Henry VIII.) who had just buried his father, was one day hunting on the borders of Hampshire, when he heard the cries of a female in distress, in an adjoining wood. His gallantry immediately summoned him to the place, (though he then happened to be detached from all his courtiers) where he saw two ruffians attempting to violate the honour of a young lady; the king instantly drew on them, and a scuffle ensued, which roused the reverie of Charles Brandon, who was taking his morning's walk in an adjoining thicket: he immediately ranged himself on the side of the king, whom he then did not know, and, by his dexterity, soon disarmed one of the ruffians, while the other fled.

The king, charmed with this act of gallantry, so congenial to his own mind, enquired the name and family of the stranger, and, not only repossessed him of his patrimonial estates, but took him under his immediate protection.

It was this same Charles Brandon who afterwards privately married Henry's sister, Margaret, queen dowager of France, which marriage the king not only forgave him, but created him duke of Suffolk, and continued his favour towards him to the last hour of the duke's life.

He died before Henry; and the latter shewed in his attachment to this nobleman, that, notwithstanding his fits of capriciousness and cruelty, he was capable of a cordial and steady friendship. He was sitting in council when the news of Suffolk's death reached him, and he publicly took that occasion both to express his own sorrow, and to celebrate the merits of the deceased. He declared, that during the whole course of their acquaintance, his brother in law had not made a single attempt to injure any one; "and are there any of you, my lords, who can say as much?" When the king subjoined these words (says the historian) he looked round on all their faces, and saw that confusion which the consciousness of secret guilt naturally threw upon them.

Otway took his plot from the fact related in this pamphlet, but to avoid, perhaps, interfering in a circumstance which might affect many noble families at that time living, he laid the scene of his tragedy in Bohemia.

There is a large painting of the above incident now at Woburn, the seat of his grace the duke of Bedford, and the old duchess dowager, in shewing this picture, a few years before her death, to a nobleman, related all the particulars of the story.

CHARACTER

CHARACTER *of the late* DOWAGER LADY DACRE.

THIS amiable woman paid the debt of nature a few weeks since at Beckingham, in Kent. She was the relict of the late Lord Dacre, and the daughter of Sir Thomas Fludyer. She was married in the year 1773 to Trevor Charles Roper Baron Dacre, with whom she lived in uninterrupted happiness 'till his death in the year 1794. His remains were interred in a vault in Lee church-yard, over which is erected a simple, yet elegant monument to his memory, under the immediate direction of his disconsolate lady. The inscription engraven on this tomb affords such a striking illustration of the character of her ladyship that it may with propriety be introduced here. It is as follows:

Sacred to the memory of the right honourable
Trevor Charles Roper Baron Dacre,
born the 25th June, 1745, married the 2d of March, 1773,
Mary Jane, daughter of Sir Thomas Fludyer, knt.
and died at his seat in this parish, the 3d of July, 1794,
aged 49, universally and deservedly lamented.
He was a most devout and pious Christian, strictly attentive to
the performance of every duty to God and man,
a loyal and faithful subject, a zealous supporter of his king and
country, a dutiful son, an affectionate brother,
a gentle master, a sincere friend, a humane benefactor to the
poor, and a firm protector of the distressed.
He was a most kind, constant, and tender husband
to his truly affectionate widow,
who as a testimony of
their distinguished, unclouded union for upwards of
twenty-one years,
the unexampled happiness, the unbounded
confidence in which they lived,
and a sincere token of her real gratitude for his uniform
endearing affection and particular generosity,
her deep-felt sorrow and tenderest remembrance,
has erected this unadorned monument, and
herself inscribed these well-known
facts to his beloved memory,
convinced that they are most consonant to the purity
of his life, his mild disposition, his amiable
temper, and genuine character;
and that his numberless virtues, his great benevolence and engaging manners are so universally allowed, their loss so truly regretted by all ranks,

For Page 729 turn back eight lines

client had suffered in consequence of this habit, took the following method of reproving it: being engaged to dine in company with the noble lord, he delayed going 'till the company were at dinner, when he entered the room; he apologized for his absence apparently with much agitation, stating that, from a melancholy event he had just witnessed, he found himself unable to master his feelings: "I was passing through the market," said he; "a calf was bound to a post: the butcher had drawn his knife, and was just advancing, when a beautiful child ran across him, and Oh! my God! he killed"—"The child," exclaimed his lordship: "No, my lord, the calf; but your lordship is in the habit of *anticipating*."

EAST INDIES.

INDIA, from the first knowledge of it in our books to the present day, has afforded a wide field for speculation. That so many millions of people should have been for ages incapable of governing themselves, should have yielded themselves up an easy prey to every invader, should have, under every species of oppression, retained their customs, and to a certain degree subdued, we may say, their invaders; these are circumstances which strike every reflecting mind with astonishment on the past, and anxious expectation on the future state of the country. It is certain, however, that India has suffered less from us than from any of her former invaders.

Answer, by Mathematicus, to W. Wilson's Question, inserted the 14th of April.

LET v, x, y, z, denote the numbers expressing the places in the alphabet of the letters required:

$$\text{Then} \begin{cases} v+x+y+z = 24 \\ vxyz = 360 \\ xyz = 60 \\ vxz = 30 \end{cases} \text{per the question.}$$

Divide the 2d by the 3d, the quotient is $v=6$; divide the 2d by the 4th, the quotient is $y=12$; substitute these values in the 1st and 2d equations, and they become $x+z=6$, and $xz=5$; and because x and z are whole numbers, it is plain that $x=1$, and $z=5$. Hence the word sought is FAME.

☞ Similar answers have been received from Tringularius, of Evershot; a youth of Mr. Chivers's school at St. Austell; R. Thomas, of Exeter; W. Pollard, of Egloshayle; and William Backhouse, of Evercreech.

Answer, by W. Cross, of Bristol, to T. Rutger's Charade, inserted July 7.

TO CAMP the soldier joyous goes,
And hopes to conquer all his foes!
Nor will his soul be moved by HIRE,
For in his breast burns glory's fire.

† Similar answers have been received from J. Salter, of Broadhembury; a correspondent at Awliscombe; W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater; J. Matthews, of Dartmouth; W. D. of Bristol; J. Woodman, junior, of North Curry; P. C. of Dean Prior; Rusticus, of Awliscombe; and J. Lewis, of Poole.

Answer, by W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater, to W. D.'s Anagram, inserted July 7.

A LION is the beast you mean,
And NOLI is the town I ween.

†*† We have received similar answers from W. D. Thomps, of Bridgewater; T. Scadding, of Wellington; J. Matthews, of Dartmouth; J. Whittle, of Upway; and B. Belcher, and J. Ryan, of Stonehouse.

Answer, by a Correspondent at Awliscombe, to W. Richards's Rebus, inserted July 14.

THE earth, the seas, and Cynthia fair,
Are all in MOTION I declare.

†‡† We have received the like answer from Henry Stoneman, and J. S. of Exeter; W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater; John Woodman, junior, of North Curry; Thomas Coombe, of St. German's; J. Whittle, of Upway; W. D. of Bristol; J. Rowden, jun. of Heytesbury; T. Scadding, of Wellington; John Salter, of Broadhembury; Sophia, of Modbury; J. Jarvis, and J. Matthews, of Dartmouth; B. Belcher, and J. Ryan, of East Stonehouse; and W. Mann, of Ashburton.

A CHARADE, *by W. D. of Bristol.*

A Numeral, gents, you will unfold,
With ease my first to know;
My next behold in winter cold,
When waters cease to flow.

If you these parts so simple trace,
And join the same you'll find,
What's hideous, horrible, and base,
Foe to the virtuous mind.

A REBUS, *by Goloutribus, Junior.*

IN a grammar my first you will easily find
Described in a personal case;
But when with my second it once is combin'd,
It then as a verb takes its place.

My third is a term which is used to express
A female in prime of her days:
My whole is a glutinous thing I confess,
Which is used in a number of ways.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

TAUNTON VALE.

TH' extended scene, which round appears display'd
From Neboe's verdant, gently rising mount
Whose top a spacious, ample view commands
Of Thornton's fertile vale, pourtray my muse
That shuns the din of strife, and noise tumultuous,
And, when fair morning's beams adorn the sky,
With orient colours bright, delights to gain
The soft aspiring hill or plains recluse,
Where peace and calm retirement quiet dwell.

And see! straight in the eastern clime advancing
The glorious orb of day his course pursues,
And wide illumines round the landscape fair
With rays of heavenly light. On every side
Innumerous beauties meet the roving eye;
Luxuriant meads and fertile blooming fields,
In green array, woods and umbrageous groves,
While circling hills, that high uplifted rise,
Bound the gay prospect of the lovely scene.

Amidst the vale soft flowing rolls the Thone,
Thro' many a flow'ery meadow winding slow
His mazy course, ev'n from the copious spring.
Along thy peaceful banks no more are seen
Fierce hostile bands encamp'd, as erst appear'd
In warlike state, when dread invading foes
Spread wide o'er Albion's realm confusion dire;
But 'mid sweet pastures green, the lowing herds
Now unmolested graze, and snow-white flocks
In sportive pastime on thy borders play.
And here oft-times Thorntonia's beauteous fair
Rove o'er the plain, beside thy silent stream,
Where French Wear's gay enamell'd fields appear;
While from the distant woodlands echoing soft
Sweet music's strains are heard along the vale.

Near these soft verdant meads the eye perceives
Old Thoneton's castle stand expos'd to view;
And from amidst the vill' observes the towers
Their lofty form uprearing high above
The stately domes that rise presented round.
While now across the blooming, levell'd plain,
Behold new objects that allure the sight;
Hamlets and lowly cots soft peering thro'
The foliage thick of dark embowering trees,
Calm lov'd abodes of peace and sweet content.
Then Cothelstone's tall mount we next survey,
Chief of the hills, that high o'ertops the vale,
From whose exalted scite the whiten'd cliffs
Of ancient Cambria's sea-girt shore appear.
Nor pass unnotic'd by the pleasant seats,
Villas, and mansions, gaily interspers'd.
Where curious art with nature interjoins

To

To beautify the scene. Conspicuous see
Fairwater's pleasant house to view disclos'd
Full on the airy plain; while up the hills
Distant we note the residence of Warre,
Fair Hestercombe! by waving woods adorn'd,
And shady groves, with elegance display'd.

But vain the attempt to mark the varied charms
Of each peculiar mansion plac'd around,
Or paint each beauty of the sylvan scene.
The rural, sweet retreats of peaceful swains,
The spacious lawns, the soft, sequester'd bowers,
And dark embosom'd grots, on this side seen.
With thee, Evander, here I love to stray
Amid these grateful shades. In converse sweet
To pass the tranquil hour, when Phœbus bright,
Descending down the western sky, resigns
His potent sway to evening's milder reign.

When to the right we turn th' enraptur'd eye
Wider the scene expands. How vast the landscape
Swells on the ravish'd sight, in all the glow
Of nature's lovely charms. Unnumber'd trees
Successive rise, and grace both hill and plain,
In Flora's gayest liv'ry deck'd profuse.
Here smiling meadows blooming fair behold,
And richest pastures clad in liveliest green,
Bestrew'd around with numerous flocks and herds,
That fearless crop the tender, flowery herb,
While 'neath yon spreading oak trees shade reclin'd,
The watchful swain his mellow'd reed attunes
To please his Delia fair, and emulates the strains
That burst harmonious from the vocal groves.

Still roves the eye, untir'd, o'er all the prospect,
Wide extended round, and now afar descries,
Rais'd on a gentle slope, the lofty spire,
Which marks the once delightful residence
Of great illustrious Chatham—now no more.
Fain would the muse, in elevated strains,
His name proclaim, and give th' eulogium due;
But conscious of her inability,
A tribute equal to his worth to raise,
The task resigns to bards of greatest fame.

And last we view
The lengthen'd range of Blackdown's lofty hills,
High towering from the vale, with verdure clad,
In tints of darkest hues. The sable woods,
Wide spreading round, diffuse a pleasing gloom,
Grateful to pensive thought, that loves to rove
Free, undisturb'd, amidst embosom'd shades,
Secluded scenes, to solitude devote.

Hail! ye soft scenes of beauty and delight!
Ye silent bowers! Ye calm, desir'd retreats!
Sweet native vale! Thy matchless charms I hail!
Where unmolested reign soft peace and innocence,
With ever-blooming health, and sweet content.
Here, roving midst thy rural, shady walks,
Exalted themes the thoughtful mind engage,
To ponder well their serious import o'er.
Calm contemplation borne on wings sublime,
Beyond the limits of terrestrial things,
Delighted soars to yon ethereal heights,
Where endless bliss for ever dwells supreme.

Taunton, July, 1806. PRIMROSE.